

The background of the cover is a photograph of two soldiers in a desert environment. On the left, a soldier in a tan helmet and camouflage uniform stands near a tan armored vehicle. On the right, another soldier in a dark beanie and camouflage uniform is in profile, looking towards the first soldier. The vehicle has a mounted machine gun and various equipment on top.

# Afghanistan **Freedom** Watch

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan

***Embedded training teams  
help ANA soldiers toward  
self-sufficiency***

***Page 8***





**Army Spc. Garrett Shephard organizes mail at Bagram Airfield to be distributed throughout Afghanistan. With Southern European Task Force Soldiers leaving, the post office has been extremely busy taking care of last-minute packages Soldiers are sending home. Shephard is a postal clerk with the 501st Postal Company.**

Photo by Army Spc. Brian Schroeder,  
Combined Joint Task Force - 76 Public Affairs

**Cover: A U.S. military policeman confers with an Afghan National Army soldier at the scene of an improvised explosive device detonation. ANA members helped provide security for the investigation team and assisted in searching and interviewing people in the area.**

Photo by Air Force Capt. Dave Huxsoll,  
Office of Security Cooperation - Afghanistan

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## **Afghanistan Freedom Watch**

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan

*Freedom Watch* is a weekly publication of  
Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan.

CFC-A Commander Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry  
Public Affairs Officer Col. James R. Yonts

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# Inspector general teams ready to assist service members

**Combined Joint Task Force - 76  
Inspector General Office**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- A new inspector general team is here and ready to serve service members.

The new Combined Joint Task Force - 76 inspector general team comes from the inspector general office from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. They are not new to Afghanistan having performed Operation Enduring Freedom inspector general duties from 2003 to 2004.

Army Lt. Col. John Elwood and Army Master Sgt. Brian Warren form the new CJTF-76 inspector general team at Bagram, Afghanistan.

Service members and Department of the Army civilians must remember that in order to help solve problems, IGs recommend the following:

- ▶ Be sure you have a problem; not just a pet peeve.
- ▶ Give your chain of command a chance to solve your problem.
- ▶ If IG assistance is needed, contact your local IG team first.
- ▶ Be honest and don't provide misleading information.



**Army Lt. Col. John Elwood talks with a Soldier in his office. Elwood is the new inspector general for Combined Joint Task Force - 76.**

▶ Keep in mind IGs are not policy makers and can only recommend, not order a resolution.

▶ IGs only resolve cases based on fact.

The CJTF-76 IG is located in the Joint Operations Center in room 203. The phone number is 231-2716 or 231-4028.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Brian Segada will conduct inspector general duties at Forward Operating Base Salerno. Segada's phone number is 851-1134. Army Sgt. 1st Class Sherry Isaac will conduct inspector general duties at Kandahar Airfield. Isaac's phone number is 841-1702/1703.

Photo by Army Spc. Jason Krawczyk, 20th Public Affairs Detachment

## Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week



### Afghan cultural tidbit

#### Where are my friends?

##### Dari

Doostani man kuja hastand?  
(Dos-tani-man-ku-ja- has-tand)

##### Pashtu

Zama malgari chairta di?  
(Za-ma-mal-gari chair-ta-di)

**Attan is Afghan dancing. There are three kinds of attan: wardaki, logari and khosti. Wardaki consists of body movements and has no clapping but a lot of turns and twists. Logari uses clapping and full turns of the body in place. Khosti consists of head movements. The head is snapped side to side.**



# ANA soldiers confiscate explosives

**Combined Joint Task Force - 76 Public Affairs**

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan** -- Afghan National Army soldiers and Ministry of Defense agents are increasing their awareness and ability to protect the people through early detection and prevention of improvised explosive devices.

With these skills, they identified and stopped two trucks containing explosive materials in Jalalabad on Jan. 26, effectively stopping what could have been a deadly incident.

Acting on a tip, Afghan soldiers identified two trucks as suspicious and detained three drivers. An investigation revealed that the three drivers had been paid in Pakistani currency to deliver 1,500 pounds of ammonium nitrate and diesel fuel -- which can be combined to make explosives -- to Jalalabad. A specific target was not identified.

"This is exactly the kind of effort needed to keep the Afghan people safe," said Army Col. Pat Donahue, commander of Task Force Devil. "This was a great example of Afghan military forces proactively fighting terrorism before it happens."

# Afghan-led mission captures IED Cell

**Combined Joint Task Force - 76 Public Affairs**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- Afghan and Coalition forces captured the leader of an improvised explosive device cell in Kandahar city Feb. 7.

Afghan police and army troops raided a compound in Kandahar and, without firing a round, captured Muhammad Zai, who is suspected of manufacturing and supplying IEDs to insurgents.

Afghan security forces foiled multiple suicide and roadside bombing plots in southern Afghanistan in recent weeks.

"Their aim is to not only disrupt the insurgents' ability to conduct further IED attacks, but to also send a strong message that the (Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police) will not tolerate further attacks," said Army Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara, spokesman for Combined Joint Task Force - 76.

# Four Taliban members captured in Ghazni Province

**Combined Joint Task Force - 76 Public Affairs**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- Afghan National Police and Coalition forces detained four members of the Taliban in Ghazni Province on Feb. 5.

They were taken to the Ghazni detention center for questioning.

"This was a joint operation between the ANP, Coalition forces and the Afghan people," said Army Col. Pat Donahue, commander of Task Force Devil. "We were able to apprehend these four based on information given to us from the provincial coordination center in Ghazni."

By centralizing emergency efforts and facilitating the flow of informa-

tion among the ANP, Afghan National Army, Afghan government, Coalition forces and the Afghan people, provincial coordination centers help Afghan leaders run their districts and provinces. It's important for Afghan and Coalition forces to continue to emphasize their need to work with villagers, Ghazni Gov. Sher Alam said.

The Coalition's two operational regions, Regional Command East and Regional Command South, each have several control centers, with plans to build one in every major city.

Meanwhile, Ghazni's governor said he continues to discover new uses for his control center, including holding intelligence briefings for leaders of ANP patrols.

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to [freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil). Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

**Aircrew from the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry, walk the flightline in Jalalabad after a mission supporting 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Division.**

Photo by Army Capt. Kelsey Smith, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry



# Afghan military academy welcomes second cadet class

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates

Office of Security Cooperation - Afghanistan Public Affairs

**KABUL, Afghanistan** -- More than 200 men from across Afghanistan are now in their fifth week of training at the National Military Academy of Afghanistan.

They arrived on Jan. 21 to become the school's second cadet class in as many years.

The men were selected from more than 1,000 applicants who took the academy's entrance examination in November.

The 250 candidates who scored highest on the exam, which included mental and physical challenges, were offered opportunities to earn four-year engineering degrees and commissions as second lieutenants in the Afghan National Army.

The cadets, who are between the ages of 18 and 23, will incur 10-year service obligations upon graduation.

"The ANA needs these young men," said ANA Brig. Gen. Hasamuddin, the academy's commander of cadets. Hasamuddin, like many Afghans, uses only one name. "They are the best and brightest Afghanistan has to offer, and the training and leadership they learn here will help make the ANA a strong and capable army."

The cadets will undergo seven weeks of basic combat training. Later, they will take numerous engineering courses and study military leadership, ethics and psychology. The military academy also teaches cadets how to work together.

"This school brings together young men from every province and allows them to build bonds and work alongside each other toward a common goal," said ANA Col. Hamdullah Yousfzai, the academy's dean. "This is important for the future of this army and this nation."

Located on the grounds of a former flight technology



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates

**New cadets listen to instructions from an Afghan National Army officer at the National Military Academy of Afghanistan in Kabul.**

school, the academy is modeled after the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. It officially opened in February 2005 with a class of 120 cadets.

Besides a free education, the cadets earn \$20 a month, free books, supplies, housing and food during their four years at the academy. For some cadets, the appointments fulfilled a lifelong dream.

"I have wanted to join the army since I was a little boy," said Nawabi, a cadet from Jalalabad. "I now want to do my best to make my country successful and make my family proud."

## Enduring Voices

*What have you done supporting Operation Enduring Freedom?*



Air Force Senior Airman Philip Esmeli, 755th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron  
*"I have made the standard of living better on Bagram Airfield for Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and civilians."*



Army Spc. James Atkins, Combined Joint Task Force - 76 movement control team  
*"I unloaded pallets of food for Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors."*



Army Pfc. Jason Noakes, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
*"We provided security to towns so they could build roads and shops to improve the economy."*



Army Staff Sgt. Evelyn Charles, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Joint Logistics Command  
*"I provided logistical support for the Joint Logistics Command and its subordinate units."*



Photo digitally altered by Army Spc. Jon H. Arguello



An Afghan boy is congratulated during his computer-class graduation ceremony in Qalat on Jan. 18. The graduation's opening remarks were made by Zabul Gov. Del Bar Jan Arman.

## New school empowers Afghan work force

By Army Spc. Jon H. Arguello

*Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs*

**QALAT, Afghanistan** -- More than 30 students graduated from a basic computer class at a new vocational school Jan. 18 at the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team base in Zabul Province.

The students of all ages received their graduation certificates and were ready to use their newly acquired skills as members of the Afghan work force, or they can return to the school to attend an intermediate-level class.

The school, which offers courses in computers, carpentry, welding, electrical systems, auto mechanics, rug weaving, nursing, emergency medical technician, driving, plumbing and English, has had nearly 200 students graduate.

Students don't just leave with a certificate; they also leave with a starter kit of supplies or tools needed to work in their respective fields.

"The Qalat PRT believes this vocational school is moving the Afghan work force forward," said Army Lt. Col. Thomas Goodfellow, commander of the Qalat PRT. "There is a ... willingness from the youth of Zabul Province (to take) a substantial interest in the future of themselves as well as Afghanistan."

The school, which is open to women and men, solves a crucial problem in the Afghan work force, Goodfellow said. It enhances the marketable job skills of the province's work force.

Many of the provincial reconstruction team's projects were using Pakistani workers because contractors could not find qualified Afghan workers to fill the jobs.

That's when the PRT decided to train the Afghan workers so

they could benefit from their own country's progress. The PRT's pilot program was well received, and in November, 290 students enrolled, of which, in addition to the original 200, 180 have graduated. The program will soon be moving forward with a second semester and has more than enough students to fill the classrooms.

American Soldiers didn't just come up with the idea; they are also teaching classes. The opportunity to teach in Afghanistan has also given the Soldiers a sense of personal gratification.

"This assignment is the one I have enjoyed the most throughout my military career," said Army Sgt. Robert Noe, one of the school's teachers from the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion, who has served in the military for 13 years.

The eagerness with which the Afghans seek educational opportunities makes teaching the courses fulfilling, Noe said.

The program has been so successful that the school has had to turn away many students.

There's more than education at stake, Goodfellow said. It's also about achieving a more far-reaching goal.

"Putting young and old Afghans to work mitigates the effect of the Taliban regime," Goodfellow said.

The class started Nov. 5 as a way to mitigate the historical effects of unemployment during the nonconstruction winter months, he said. The school was born out of necessity to fill skilled labor positions with the contractors bidding on Commander's Emergency Response Program projects; it was a natural fit as well as a needed skill set for Zabul.

Afghans' here are demonstrating their belief in moving forward toward peace and leaving the past behind, Goodfellow said.

# 'Big Windy' honors fallen comrades

**By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco**

**20th Public Affairs Detachment**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- The five crewmembers who died when their CH-47 Chinook crashed April 6 were remembered in a dedication ceremony on Bagram Airfield Jan. 30.

The crewmembers of aircraft Big Windy 25 were honored in the dedication of the Task Force Aviation Life Support Systems Maintenance building, or the Big Windy 25 Building.

"Personally, and from the bottom of our hearts, this was the least we could do for our fallen comrades," Army Chief Warrant Officer Roberto Torres said at the ceremony.

Torres is a CH-47 pilot and the officer in charge of Task Force ALSS Maintenance with F Company, 159th Aviation Regiment, 12th Aviation Brigade.

"They died serving a country they believed in," said Army Col. Mark McKearn, commander of Task Force Griffin and the 12th Avn. Bde. "They may be buried at different locations, but their souls left them here, so it's only fitting that they be memorialized here.

"May God continue to bless the families of these Soldiers and the Soldiers of Big Windy," McKearn said.

Finally, a plaque was unveiled dedicating the facility with the names of the fallen Army crew: Chief Warrant Officers Clint Prather and David Ayala, Staff Sgt. Charles Sanders, and Spcs. Michael Spivey and Pendleton Sykes II.



**Army Col. Mark McKearn and Army Chief Warrant Officer Roberto Torres share a moment of silence during a dedication ceremony at Bagram Airfield on Jan. 30. The ceremony honored five crewmembers who died when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed April 6.**

The crew and passengers were on their way back from a resupply mission in southern Afghanistan when the helicopter encountered a sand storm and crashed south of the city of Ghazni.

A total of 16 Coalition personnel, including three employees of Kellogg, Brown and Root, were on board the helicopter when it crashed.



Photos by Army Spc. Michael Zuk, 55th Signal Company

**Army Sgt. Brian McFarland, left, and Army Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Hays unveil a sign honoring the Army crew of Chief Warrant Officers Clint Prather and David Ayala, Staff Sgt. Charles Sanders, and Spcs. Michael Spivey and Pendleton Sykes II. The Soldiers were on board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter when it crashed April 6. Sixteen people, including 13 Coalition personnel and three employees of Kellogg, Brown and Root, were killed in the crash.**



Photo by Air Force Capt. Dave Huxsoll



Afghan National Army members and U.S. military police from Forward Operating Base Aned respond to the scene of an improvised explosive device detonation and firefight in Paktika Province on Dec. 25.

# Embedded training teams help ANA troops to self-sufficiency

**By Air Force Capt. Dave Huxsoll**  
Office of Security Cooperation -  
Afghanistan

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE ORGUN-E, Afghanistan** -- The professional development of Afghan National Army soldiers doesn't end when they leave the Kabul Military Training Center.

Wherever ANA soldiers are deployed across Afghanistan, whether conducting combat operations alongside Coalition forces in the south and east, or security and stability operations in the north and west, they do so accompanied by U.S. embedded training teams.

At Forward Operating Base Orgun-E in Paktika Province, Army Maj. Donnie Kelly's team of 11 officers and non-commissioned officers from Task Force Phoenix train and advise the men of the ANA's 2nd Kandak, 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps.

"An ETT's job is to mentor, train and advise the ANA," explained Kelly, who is the ETT chief there. "Our job is to train the leaders and NCOs so that they understand and know how to conduct

army business themselves."

"My team has truly been embedded with the ANA," Kelly said. "From March until November, we lived on an ANA forward operating base. The ETTs were the only U.S. presence on the compound."

In November, the unit moved to Orgun-E, where it worked with the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

The embedded teams there are a mix of U.S. Army National Guard and Reserve Soldiers. In civilian life they are police officers, business owners and pharmaceutical salesmen, as well as a mortgage broker, a chemist, a school teacher and a fire academy instructor.

The 2nd Kandak includes three infantry companies, a weapons company and a headquarters company.

Two trainers are embedded with each company. Six mornings a week they join at formation, take attendance and then begin training. The training program, which comes from the Afghan Ministry of Defense and is based on U.S. Army doctrine, is determined by

Afghan operations and mission requirements.

"Generally, classes in the morning are taught by the embedded trainers, and classes in the afternoon are taught by the ANA," Kelly said. Kelly typically meets with the kandak commander after the morning formation to discuss issues or problems. Throughout the day, the trainers are meeting with and working with their companies.

"But one thing to remember (is that) no day is a typical day with the ANA," Kelly said. "It constantly changes."

Soldiers of the 2nd Kandak regularly join members of the U.S. Army's 1st Bn., 508th PIR, as well as military police stationed at Orgun-E, on missions in the area. ANA soldiers accompany military police on route clearance patrols. They also provide security for engineers building roads in the area and meet with mayors, elders and chiefs of police to discuss the security situation and development projects and gather information. In addition, they assist Coalition troops by searching villages.

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pt. **Clay Ballenger**, embedded trainer for the Afghan National Army's Headquarters Company, 2nd Kandak, speaks with members

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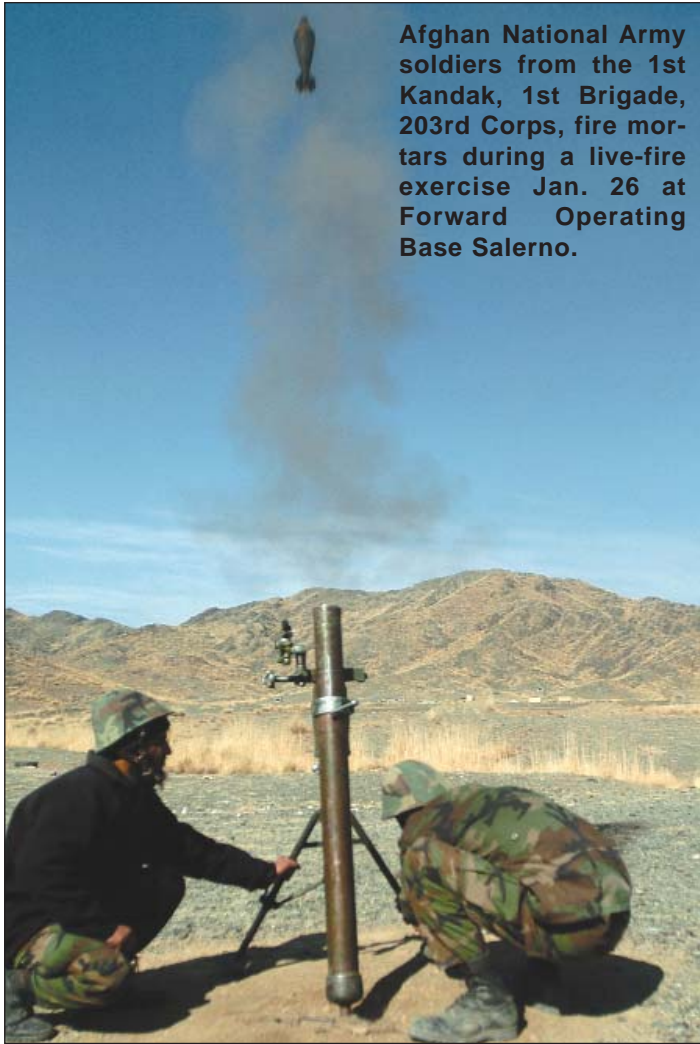


**Army Capt. Chuck Niblack**, an embedded trainer, gives instructions as Afghan National Army soldiers search people following an improvised explosive device detonation.

Photos by Air Force Capt. Dave Huxsoll



Photos by Army Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke



**Afghan National Army soldiers from the 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps, fire mortars during a live-fire exercise Jan. 26 at Forward Operating Base Salerno.**



**A U.S. Soldier supervises Afghan National Army soldiers from the 1st Kandak during a live-fire exercise Jan. 26.**

# White Devils train Afghans on mortars

**By Army Sgt. Chuck D. Meseke**  
*Task Force Devil Public Affairs*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan** -- Dozens of Afghan National Army soldiers from 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps, qualified and received certificates for completing mortar training here Jan. 26.

The soldiers were trained by paratroopers from Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, on correct maintenance, firing and safety procedures for Russian 82 mm mortar systems.

After four days of training, the non-commissioned officers of Headquarters Company tested the Afghan soldiers' ability to hit targets about 600 meters away. Paratroopers from Task Force White Devil have worked frequently with ANA troops to help them hone

their infantry skills.

"I'm glad to teach them because the more they have control of their skills, the more it will prove that we are successful in our mission of teaching them to take care of their country," said Army Sgt. Heriberto Precastre, a Houston native and mortar squad leader with Headquarters Company.

The paratroopers and ANA soldiers were not sure how the mortar systems would function during their first live-fire drill, and the first few rounds landed far beyond their expected target area, but with the help of their mentors, the soldiers were soon landing rounds on target.

"Their equipment isn't standardized, so training with them helps them understand all of the different systems," Precastre said.

A short break in the training took

place as commanders from both TF White Devil and the ANA's 1st Kandak presented the soldiers with certificates for successfully completing the training.

Once they received their certificates, the soldiers went back to firing, honing their skills to defeat the enemies of Afghanistan.

"Our soldiers are happy to shoot mortars and train so that we may challenge the enemies of Afghanistan," said Afghan Lt. Col. Abdul Hamed, the intelligence officer for 1st Kandak, through an interpreter.

As ANA soldiers play a more prominent role in operations, it seems as if all eyes are on the soldiers and their ability to defend their country.

"This training will give them a great advantage -- they won't need indirect fire support from us. They can do it themselves," Precastre said.



# From Soldiers to statesmen: a new frontier for combat arms

**By Army Spc. Tiffany Evans**  
**20th Public Affairs Detachment**

## **FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHARANA, Afghanistan**

-- Never before have combat arms Soldiers carried so many responsibilities during war. Today's Soldiers must not only be able to accomplish all their infantry duties, but also be skilled statesmen.

One example of this is the Soldiers in the battalion mortar platoon, part of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

"Before Afghanistan and Iraq, we worried mainly about fighting the enemy, clearing rooms and other normal infantry tactics," said Army Sgt. 1st Class George Pullen, the battalion's mortar platoon sergeant.

"Now however, we are politicians working on bringing peace and prosperity to these countries."

A mortar platoon is trained to carry out infantry tactics and mortar responsibilities, Pullen said. Now mortar and other combat arms Soldiers also receive training about how to deal with local leaders.

The Soldiers have trained Afghan soldiers and police officers, organized rebuilding projects, and mediated for tribes, elders, mayors, police chiefs and the governor. First Lt. Aaron Lee, the Soldiers' platoon leader, said that while doing these tasks, they still performed presence patrols, gathered intelligence, went on offensive operations with the Afghan National Army and other normal duties.

"One of our main projects has been to help the local mayors run a (repatriation) program," Pullen said. "We are working together to get (insurgents) to cut their terrorist ties and (pledge) themselves to the Afghan government."

While meeting with local leaders, Soldiers gain intelligence about insurgent movements all over the province and suspects who may be leading these movements.

While meeting with Mayor Haji Abdul Sahtar Merezawkwel, of the Yayah Khel District, on Feb. 4, the Soldiers gained intelligence on two people who Coalition forces have been looking for and learned of an important meeting that Merezawkwel had been part of that morning.



Army 1st Lt. Aaron Lee and Army Sgt. 1st Class George Pullen talk to Afghan National Police officers after visiting the mayor of Yayah Khel in Paktika Province. Lee and Pullen serve with the battalion mortar platoon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.



# PRT, USAID repair 80 kilometers of road from Charikar to Baharak

**By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco**

**20th Public Affairs Detachment**

**PANJSHIR PROVINCE, Afghanistan**

-- Villagers here are seeing their community's transportation system improve thanks to the partial completion of a road construction project coordinated through the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Using funds from the United States Agency for International Development and the Commanders Emergency Response Program, the PRT is working to repair roads from the villages of Charikar to Baharak, a distance of 80 kilometers.

The \$24 million repair project is vital to the survival of the people and improving local police and emergency services in the valley, said Army Maj. Paul Johnson, the PRT executive officer from the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion in Little Rock, Ark.

The basic goal of the project is to provide stable roads the people can easily maintain, Johnson said.

"If we don't build an infrastructure the people can maintain, (the infrastructure will) fall to pieces again," Johnson said. "We don't want that."

Most young people in the valley need to work on farmland or in town, Johnson said.

The roads will improve job and travel opportunities, and assist farmers in moving their crops into more markets.

The side roads to the valley also are being built up. In June, summer floods completely washed out the bridge to the village of Obdurah.

At least 600 families could no longer cross the river without using unsafe goat bridges or hiking five hours to the next bridge. The Army Corps of Engineers is assigned to work with the PRT in rebuilding the bridge, a project made a priority by Haji Buhlol, the governor of Panjshir Province, said Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Loriaux, the noncommissioned officer in charge of Civil Affairs Team-A from the 321st Civil Affairs Brigade in



Courtesy Photo

**A heavy equipment operator repairs part of a road that stretches from the villages of Charikar to Baharak, a distance of 80 kilometers.**

San Antonio.

To assist in drainage during the flood season, the team came up with the solution of placing four metal storage containers under the road to Obdurah behind the bridge.

Contractors from Panjshir Province worked on the \$45,000 bridge reconstruction project, and dug a drainage pool and retaining wall needed to complete the project.

"They said, 'We're doing this for the people; we want to do it right,'" Loriaux said.

Where there were once goat trails to get

from place to place, there are now smooth, wide roads that have increased the range of travel for the people of Panjshir Province.

"We take it for granted when we drive up to work," Johnson said. "There are people who walk an hour to work eight-to-12-hour days, then walk home to feed the animals, take care of crops and survive at home."

"We're building an infrastructure to aid economic growth," Johnson said. "More than 85 percent of the people here grow crops. If you have no access to markets, why grow anything?"



# New hospital symbolizes Afghan progress in south

**By Army Spc. Jon H. Arguello**  
*Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs*

**QALAT, Afghanistan** -- Few infrastructure projects inject the Afghan people with as much hope for a stable and healthy life for their families as a new hospital.

Along with many of the new roads and bridges built during reconstruction, a new hospital will bring that hope to a new level for the people living in southern Afghanistan.

Zabul's governor, Arman; his director of women affairs, Dr. Gul Nar; Qalat's provincial reconstruction team commander, Army Lt. Col. Thomas Goodfellow; and a group of representatives from the United Arab Emirates toured the Regional Teaching Hospital to evaluate the benefits the hospital will provide for the community.

"The hospital is strategically located between Kabul and Kandahar and will provide the middle provinces of Afghanistan with a full service hospital with state-of-the-art equipment," Goodfellow said. "But this hospital is more than a place for Afghans throughout Zabul Province to seek health care, it's a milestone symbolizing the strong foundation being built on which a future prosperous, secure and healthy nation will grow."

The United Arab Emirates funded the construction of the hospital.



**Army Lt. Col. Thomas Goodfellow and Governor Arman's chief of staff, Gulab Shaw, inspect the new dental equipment at Zabul Regional Teaching Hospital. Goodfellow is the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team commander.**

Local contractors built it and installed the \$4 million worth of equipment. Coalition forces escorted the equipment from Kandahar Airfield.

"The complete project was a classic example of inter-agency cooperation," Goodfellow said.

U.S., UAE and Afghan personnel played an important role in the success of the project, Goodfellow said.

The new facility holds up to 130

patients and includes a level-one trauma center, which provides treatment to a trauma victim and helps them survive any injuries the victim sustained, a major and minor surgery facility, pediatric and neonatal care, and full service dental care.

The hospital is truly a sign of progress for the Afghan people, the colonel said.

"The people of Afghanistan will be forever grateful to all involved in building this hospital," Arman said. "The facility is very impressive, and it's beautiful to see where the country is going."

Goodfellow agreed with the governor's assessment.

"The (locals see) the provincial government moving the region in a positive direction. That's invaluable here, whether it's with a hospital, bridge or school.

"There's more to a hospital than health care. A hospital brings people hope and hope can turn into vision. If we can get all Afghans to share a common vision, there's no end to what Afghanistan can do for itself," Goodfellow said.



**Army Dr. (Maj.) John Drobnica inspects new incubator at Zabul Regional Teaching Hospital. He is the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team's doctor.**

# Renowned cardiologist trades lab coat for uniform

By Elaine Wilson

Fort Sam Houston

Public Information Office

**CAMP BULLIS, Texas --**

A world-renowned cardiologist and university vice president, Dr. Ward Casscells joined the Army at age 53 and led the service's research on avian flu before graduating Feb. 3 from his officer basic course.

Casscells is a teacher, doctor and champion of humanitarian relief, with countless hours spent tending to victims of hurricanes, tsunamis and terrorist acts. His studies have led to breakthroughs in cardiology, and his years of research on avian flu are now deemed cutting edge as a potential pandemic begins to loom.

With more than 30 years of accomplishments behind him, Casscells traded his lab coat for a uniform in June and joined the Army Reserve as a colonel.

"People told me I was too old, not physically fit enough or won't be senior enough to be able to do anything interesting," Casscells said. "None of that was true."

While the decision may have seemed abrupt to many of his family and friends, it was a long time coming for Casscells.

## Army tops bright career

The Delaware native has forged a career many peers respect and admire. He went to Yale University in Connecticut, then to Harvard University in Boston, where he earned his medical degree. After his residency, he worked at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., for six years. From there, he moved to Texas as chief of cardiology at the University of Texas-Houston Medical School, where he helped draw a connection between heart attacks and the flu, then

branched out into avian flu research.

In his limited spare time, Casscells served on President George W. Bush's health care advisory committee, at the forefront of humanitarian relief efforts such as Hurricane Katrina and the 2004 Asian tsunami.

## Battled cancer

With a full work and family schedule, Casscells was busier than ever. But, his busyness came to an abrupt halt one night in 2001, after he felt a growth in his abdomen. It was cancer.

"It was bad," Casscells said. "I went through five years of chemotherapy and radiation. After I went through that, I wanted to do things I hadn't done before."

He decided on a path while cleaning out a closet.

"I saw my dad's tattered old uniform. He served four years with (Gen. George S.) Patton in World War II. I figured if he could give four years of his life, I could give three months a year as a reservist."

The idea became a reality after he was medically cleared to enter the Army Reserve. He joined last summer and was almost immediately activated as the Army had an urgent need for someone with avian flu expertise.

"Lieutenant General Kevin Kiley (U.S. Army surgeon general) mobilized me to his command. He recognized the seriousness of the bird flu and wanted the Army to be prepared," Casscells said. "I volunteered to go to the Middle and Far East to do surveillance."

During a whirlwind tour, Casscells traveled alone to places like Cairo, Egypt; Beijing; and Bangkok, Thailand, to scope out the possibility for a widespread outbreak.

"Bird flu is poised to be an



Photo by Elaine Wilson

**Army Dr. (Col.) Ward Casscells prepares for a marksmanship test Jan. 26 while receiving last-minute advice from retired Army 1st Sgt. John Kearney, an Officer Basic Course instructor, at Camp Bullis, Texas.**

explosive problem," Casscells said. "I give Gen. Kiley a lot of credit for wanting to be at the forefront of medical planning."

## Officer Basic Course at 53

After months abroad, Casscells made a much shorter trip from his Austin, Texas, home. In January, he traveled to San Antonio to attend the two-week Reserve Officer Basic Course at Fort Sam Houston. The course is geared toward medical professionals like Casscells, with attendees from all walks of medical life, from nurses and pharmacists to psychiatrists and surgeons.

Run ragged with training, a sleep-deprived and physically exhausted Casscells found OBC to be, surprisingly, one of the biggest challenges of his life.

"This course is 'shock and awe' for me," he said. "I haven't been this tired and intimidated since I was an intern. It's scarier, more intense than I thought."

The instructors plan it that way.

"Many of these officers come from privilege or worked their way through school, but still don't know what it's like to do without," said Army Capt. Darren Teters, course instructor. "They've never been without a shower for two or three days or had their food limited.

"But we have to train them the same as privates," he added. "Whether doctors or nurses, they will have responsibility and will have to rely on what they learn here."

The officer-students range from second lieutenants to colonels, with varying degrees of success in the civilian sector. Rank and job status, however, have a limited role at OBC, Casscells said.

"There are very talented people attending this course," Casscells said. "They may not all have big, high-paying civilian jobs, but I'm struggling to keep up with them."

Despite some trepidation, Casscells passed the course with flying colors and graduated Feb. 3.

"We (class members) are all so proud to have gotten through it," he said.

"As a teacher, I've been enormously impressed with how seriously the instructors take training," he added. "The Army attracts better people than you expect and trains better than you can believe."

Finished with training, Casscells can now resume his esteemed career. But, his future plans are unlikely to garner fame or fortune.

"I volunteered to go to Iraq," he said. "I don't want to backfill; I want to go to where I'm most needed. And, doctors are needed in Iraq."





Coalition service members and civilians prepare to run a 13.1-mile race at Bagram Airfield on Feb. 5. Among the more than 200 participants were runners from Poland, the Netherlands, Egypt, South Korea, Norway, Australia, Canada and the U.S.



Army Capt. Shary Day finishes the 13.1-mile race at Bagram Airfield on Feb. 5. Day's two-person team won the mixed relay division.

## U.S., Coalition forces finish half marathon

By Army Sgt. Douglas DeMaio  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

### Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan --

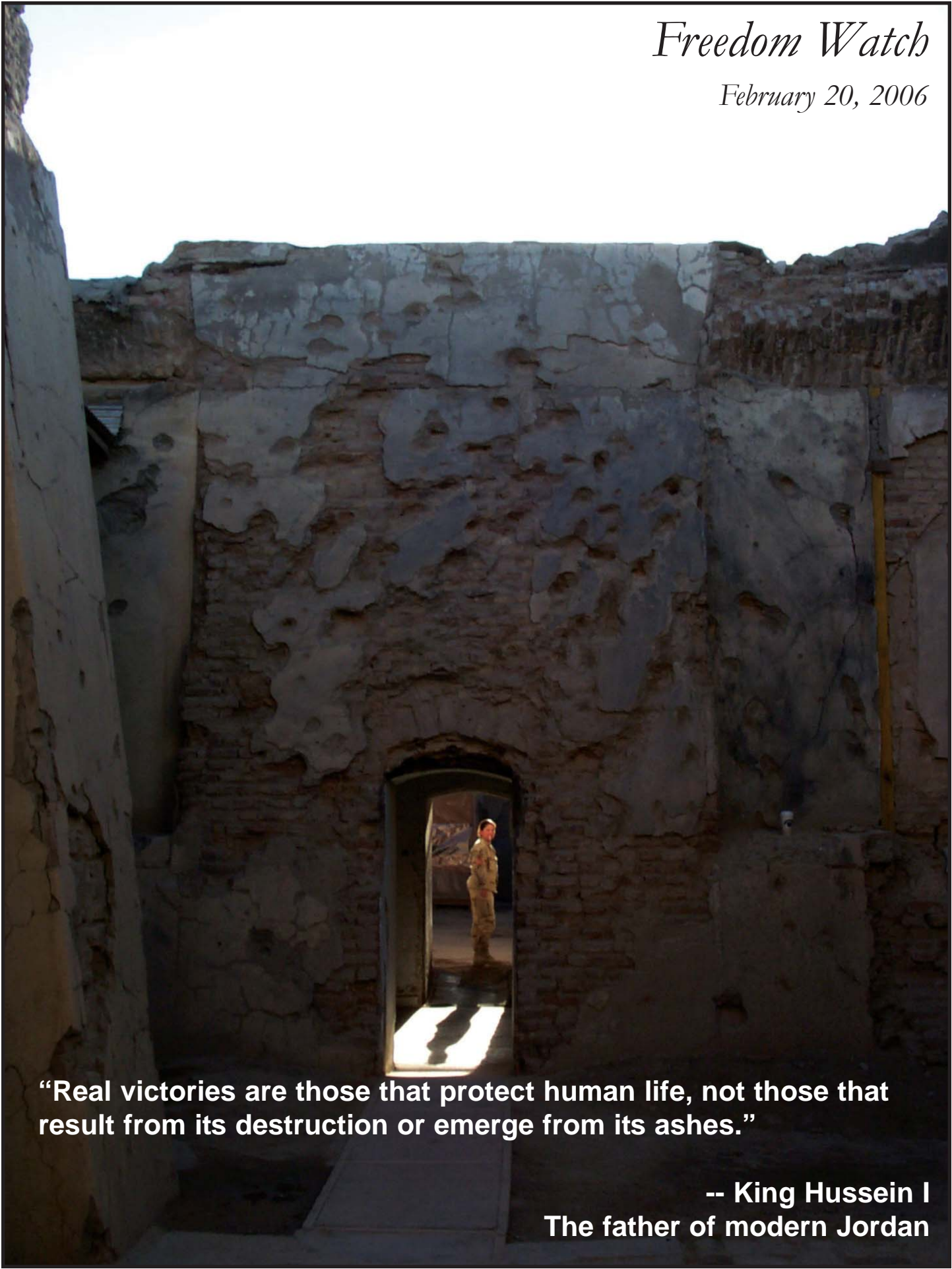
More than 200 service members and civilians ran a 13.1-mile race in the thin air of Bagram Airfield's 4,900-foot elevation Feb. 5.

The race began at 6 a.m. with temperatures in the low 30s. Participants included runners from Poland, the Netherlands, Egypt, South Korea, Norway, Australia, Canada and the U.S.

Korean Marine Capt. Soo-Yong Kirt won the men's division and a civilian, Holly Moerer, won the women's divisions.

# *Freedom Watch*

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**“Real victories are those that protect human life, not those that result from its destruction or emerge from its ashes.”**

**-- King Hussein I  
The father of modern Jordan**